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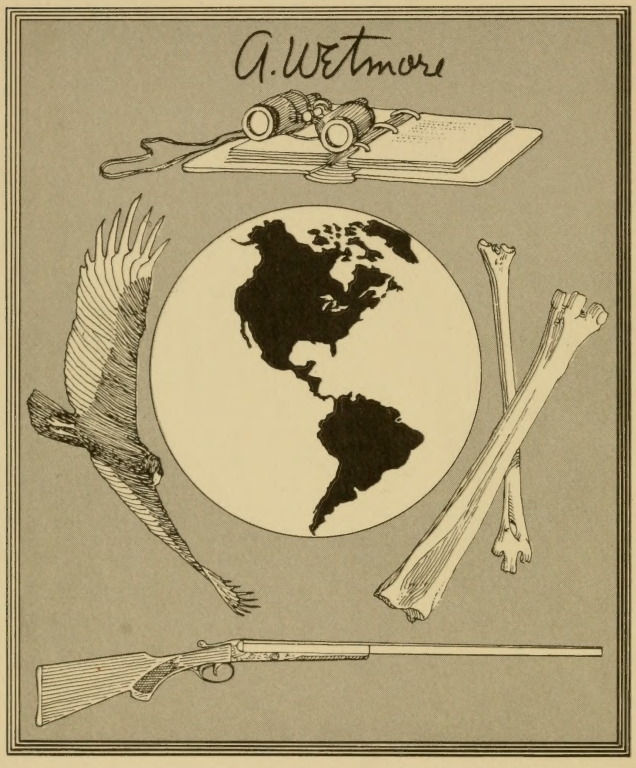

Alexander Wetmore

1946 *Sixth Secretary* 1953

G. Wetmore

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Colburn

THE BIRDS

OF THE

CONNECTICUT VALLEY

IN MASSACHUSETTS.

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THE BIRDS

OF THE

CONNECTICUT VALLEY

IN MASSACHUSETTS.

By WM. W. COLBURN AND ROBERT O. MORRIS.

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PREFACE.

The following list contains the names of the birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts, so far as they are known to the authors, either by personal observation or from consulting the works of the ornothologists who have described the birds of New England.

The works of Allen, of Baird, Brewer and Ridgway, of Coues, of Minot, of Samuels and of Stearns have been freely used. We have also availed ourselves of the experience of such collectors as E. O. Damon of Northampton, Bradley Horsford and O. B. Deane of Springfield.

The nomenclature is that adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union, and the numbers attached to the names in this list correspond to the numbers in the "Check-list of North American Birds," published by the Union in 1889. Mr. Morris has had the supervision of that part of the list which contains the birds of prey and the waterbirds, and Mr. Colburn has had charge of the remainder of the list.

We do not claim that the list is perfect. Further observation will doubtless necessitate changes in the direction of addition, if not of elimination.

Although we have prepared this list for our own use, and not for general publication, we shall have a few copies, which we will gladly give to any one who may desire to obtain them.

W. W. Colburn.
R. O. Morris.

Springfield, Mass.,
April 15, 1891.

BIRDS OF THE CONNECTICUT VALLEY IN MASSACHUSETTS.

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2. *Colymbus Holboellii.* HOLBOELL'S GREBE. Rare fall migrant.

3. *Colymbus Auritus.* HORNED GREBE. Some autumns, tolerably common.

6. *Podilymbus Podiceps.* PIED-BILLED GREBE. Common summer resident.

7. *Urinator Imber.* LOON. Common migrant.

34. *Alle Alle.* DOVEKIE. Rare visitor, but has been taken here on several occasions; supposed to have been driven from the coast by a storm.

47. *Larus Marinus.* GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL. Common in spring and fall.

51. *Larus Argentatus.* HERRING GULL. Common in spring and fall.

54. *Larus Delewarensis.* RING-BILLED GULL. Tolerably common in spring and fall.

70. *Sterna Hirundo.* COMMON TERN. Very rare; we have known of but one specimen being taken here; that, in September, 1878.

106. *Oceanodroma Leucorhoa.* LEACH'S PETREL. Occasionally found, having been driven inland during severe storms. Several have been seen here together.

120. *Phalacrocorax Dilophus.* DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. Rather rare migrant.

129. *Merganser Americanus.* AMERICAN MERGANSER. Abundant winter resident; may breed.

130. *Merganser Serrator.* RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. Rare migrant.

131. *Lophodytes Cucullatus.* HOODED MERGANSER. Tolerably common migrant.

132. *Anas Boschas.* MALLARD. Although usually considered rare in New England, we have found them tolerably common upon the Connecticut River in spring and fall.

133. *Anas Obscura.* BLACK DUCK. Common in spring and autumn; a few remain during mild winters, and regularly breed here.

135. *Anas Strepera.* GADWALL. Very rare; one was taken near Springfield some years ago.

137. *Anas Americana.* BALDPATE. Occasionally common during migration; we have seen large flocks here.

139. *Anas Carolinensis.* GREEN-WINGED TEAL. Tolerably common in autumn.

140. *Anas Discors.* BLUE-WINGED TEAL. Common in autumn; may breed.

142. *Spatula Clypeata.* SHOVELLER. Rare migrant.

143. *Dafila Acuta.* PINTAIL. Tolerably common migrant.

144. *Aix Sponsa.* WOOD DUCK. Common summer resident.

146. *Aythya Americana.* REDHEAD. A rare migrant; we have taken but one specimen.

148. *Aythya Marila Nearctica.* AMERICAN SCAUP DUCK. A common fall migrant.

149. *Aythya Affinis.* LESSER SCAUP DUCK. Abundant some years in the autumn.

150. *Aythya Collaris.* RING-NECKED DUCK. Tolerably common fall migrant.

151. *Glaucionetta Clangula Americana.* AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE. Common winter resident.

153. *Charitonetta Albeola.* BUFFLE-HEAD. Tolerably common migrant.

154. *Clangula Hyemalis.* OLD-SQUAW. Rather rare fall migrant.

166. *Oidemia Perspicillata.* SURF SCOTER. Rare fall migrant; we have taken but one.

167. *Erismatura Rubida.* RUDDY DUCK. Some autumns quite common.

169A. *Chen Hyperborea Nivalis.* GREATER SNOW GOOSE. Rare; one was wounded and captured near Springfield some years ago, and turned loose with a flock of domestic geese, with which it remained for several years.

172. *Branta Canadensis.* CANADA GOOSE. Common spring and fall migrant.

190. *Botaurus Lentiginosus.* AMERICAN BITTERN. Common summer resident.

191. *Botaurus Exilis.* LEAST BITTERN. Rare; Mr. E. O. Damon of Northampton has taken one.

192. *Ardea Occidentalis.* GREAT WHITE HERON. A rare visitor from the south; one was taken in Hadley, in 1883, and about the same time one remained in Ludlow for some days.

194. *Ardea Herodias.* GREAT BLUE HERON. A tolerably common summer resident.

201. *Ardea Virescens.* GREEN HERON. Abundant summer resident.

202. *Nycticorax Nycticorax Naevius.* BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. Common summer resident.

211. *Rallus Longirostris Crepitans.* CLAPPER RAIL. Rare; Mr. Damon has taken one near Northampton.

212. *Rallus Virginianus.* VIRGINIA RAIL. Common summer resident.

214. *Porzana Carolina.* SORA. Abundant summer resident.

219. *Gallinula Galeata.* FLORIDA GALLINULE. Rather rare summer resident; have taken five or six specimens near Springfield.

221. *Fulica Americana.* AMERICAN COOT. A tolerably common migrant.

228. *Philohela Minor* AMERICAN WOODCOCK. Common summer resident.

230. *Gallinago Delicata.* WILSON'S SNIPE. Common migrant, occasionally remain through the winter.

231. *Macrorhamphus Griseus.* DOWITCHER. Rather rare migrant.

234. *Tringa Canutus.* KNOT. Rare; we have taken but one.

235. *Tringa Maritima.* PURPLE SANDPIPER. Rare; we captured one in November, 1883.

239. *Tringa Maculata.* PECTORAL SANDPIPER. Tolerably common during fall migration.

240. *Tringa Fuscicollis.* WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER. Irregular fall migrant; occasionally in autumn large flocks will stop here.

242. *Tringa Minutilla.* LEAST SANDPIPER. Tolerably common migrant

243A. *Tringa Alpina Pacifica.* RED-BACKED SANDPIPER. Tolerably common fall migrant.

248. *Calidris Arenaria.* SANDERLING. Rare fall migrant.

254. *Totanus Melanoleucus.* GREATER YELLOW-LEGS. Common spring and fall migrant.

255. *Totanus Flavipes.* YELLOW-LEGS. Rare spring and fall migrant.

256. *Totanus Solitarius.* SOLITARY SANDPIPER. Common fall migrant

261. *Bartramia Longicauda.* BRATRAMIAN SANDPIPER. Common summer resident.

263. *Actitis Macularia.* SPOTTED SANDPIPER. Abundant summer resident.

270. *Charadrius Squatarola.* BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER. Very rare migrant.

272. *Charadrius Dominicus.* AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER. Rare fall migrant.

273. *Aegialitis Vocifera.* KILLDEER. Common summer resident, but only found in a few localities.

274. *Aegialitis Semipalmata.* SEMIPALMATED PLOVER, Rare migrant; have taken but one specimen.

283. *Arenaria Interpres.* TURNSTONE. Rare; have seen it here only two seasons.

289. *Colinus Virginianus.* BOB-WHITE. Common resident; but sometimes nearly exterminated during severe winters.

300. *Bonasa Umbellus.* RUFFED GROUSE. Common resident, some years abundant.

315. *Ectopistes Migratorius.* PASSENGER PIGEON. Formerly very abundant; but since 1876, very few have been seen here.

316. *Zenaidura Macroura.* MOURNING DOVE. A common summer resident.

327. *Elanoides Forficatus.* SWALLOW-TAILED KITE. Very rare; Mr. Damon states that he saw one near Northampton in 1880.

331. *Circus Hudsonius.* MARSH HAWK. Common summer resident.

332. *Accipiter Velox.* SHARPED-SHINNED HAWK. Common summer resident.

333. *Accipiter Cooperi.* COOPER'S HAWK. Common resident.

334. *Accipiter Atricapillus.* AMERICAN GOSHAWK. Tolerably common winter resident.

337. *Buteo Borealis.* RED-TAILED HAWK. Tolerably common resident.

339. *Buteo Lineatus.* RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. Common resident.

343. *Buteo Latissimus.* BROAD-WINGED HAWK. Tolerably common summer resident.

347a. *Archibuteo Lagopus Sancti-Johannis.* AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK. A common winter resident; Mr. Damon has captured over sixty of them in one season.

349. *Aquila Chrysaëtos.* GOLDEN EAGLE. Rare winter visitor.

352. *Haliaeetus Leucocephalus.* BALD EAGLE. Tolerably common resident.

354. *Falco Rusticolus.* GRAY GYRFALCON. Rare; Mr. Damon captured one in Northampton in February, 1879.

356. *Falco Peregrinus Anatum.* DUCK HAWK. Rare resident; a pair nested in Mt. Sugar Loaf for many years.

357. *Falco Columbarius.* PIGEON HAWK. Rare spring and fall migrant.

360. *Falco Sparverius.* AMERICAN SPARROW HAWK. Common summer resident, occasionally here in winter.

364. *Pandion Haliaëtus Carolinensis* AMERICAN OSPREY. Common summer resident.

365. *Strix Pratincola.* AMERICAN BARN OWL. Rare visitor from the South; one was captured in Springfield the last part of May, 1868.

366. *Asio Wilsonianus.* AMERICAN LONG-EARED OWL. A common resident.

367. *Asio Accipitrinus.* SHORT-EARED OWL. A common resident; Mr. Damon reports seeing nearly a hundred of these birds together, on the meadows in Northampton.

368. *Syrnium Nebulosum.* BARRED OWL. A common resident.

370. *Scotiaptex Cinerea.* GREAT GRAY OWL. A rare winter visitor; one was captured in Agawam, February, 1883.

371. *Nyctala Tengmalmi Richardsoni.* RICHARDSON'S OWL. A rare winter visitor; one was taken in Windsor some years ago.

372. *Nyctala Acadica.* SAW-WHET OWL. A rather common resident.

373. *Megascops Asio.* SCREECH OWL. A common resident.

375. *Bubo Virginianus.* GREAT HORNED OWL. Common resident.

376. *Nyctea Nyctea.* SNOWY OWL. Rather rare and irregular winter visitor; but owing to its conspicuous dress its presence here is quickly noted.

377A. *Surnia Ulula Caparoch.* AMERICAN HAWK OWL. Very rare winter visitor. It was taken at Hadley in March, 1884.

387. *Coccyzus Americanus.* YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. Rather rare summer resident.

388. *Coccyzus Erythrophthalmus.* BLACK-BILLED Cuckoo. Common summer resident.

390. *Ceryle Alcyon.* BELTED KINGFISHER. Regular summer resident.

393. *Dryobates Villosus.* HAIRY WOODPECKER. Resident, more frequently seen in winter than in summer.

394. *Dryobates Pubescens.* DOWNY WOODPECKER. Common resident.

402. *Sphyrapicus Varius.* YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. Rather rare, seen more frequently in spring and fall; the only picarian that is injurious to fruit trees.

405. *Ceophloeus Pileatus.* PILEATED WOODPECKER. Resident. Formerly common, now quite rare.

406. *Melanerpes Erythrocephalus.* RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. Rare and irregular summer resident.

409. *Melanerpes Carolinus.* RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. Very rare summer visitor.

412. *Colaptes Auratus. Flicker.* GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKER. Abundant summer resident. Occasionally seen in winter.

417. *Antrostomus Vociferus.* WHIP-POOR-WILL. Common summer resident.

420. *Chordeiles Virginianus.* NIGHT HAWK. Common summer resident.

423. *Chaetura Pelagica.* CHIMNEY SWIFT. Abundant summer resident.

428. *Trochilus Colubris.* RUBY-THROATED HUMMING BIRD. Common summer resident.

444. *Tyrannus Tyrannus.* KINGBIRD. Very common summer resident.

452. *Myiarchus Crinitus.* CRESTED FLYCATCHER. Rather rare summer resident.

456. *Sayornis Phoebe.* PHOEBE. Common summer resident.

459. *Contopus Borealis.* OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. Summer resident, irregularly distributed and not numerous.

461. *Contopus Virens.* WOOD PEWEE. Common summer resident.

466A. *Empidonax Pusillus Traillii.* TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER. Rare migrant; a few may breed in the northern part of this region.

467. *Empidonax Minimus.* LEAST FLYCATCHER. Common summer resident; frequents orchards and gardens.

477. *Cyanocitta Cristata.* BLUE JAY. Common resident.

488. *Corvus Americanus.* AMERICAN CROW. Resident, abundant in summer and not infrequently seen in winter.

494. *Dolichonyx Oryzivorus.* BOBOLINK. Common summer resident. Our most brilliant meadow songster.

495. *Molothrus Ater.* COWBIRD. Rather common summer resident.

498. *Agelaius Phoeniceus.* RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. Common summer resident.

501. *Sturnella Magna.* MEADOWLARK. Common summer resident. A few remain through winter.

506. *Icterus Spurius.* ORCHARD ORIOLE. Rather rare summer resident.

507. *Icterus Galbula.* BALTIMORE ORIOLE. Common summer resident.

509. *Scolecophagus Carolinus.* RUSTY BLACKBIRD. Regular migrant in fall and spring.

511. *Quiscalus Quiscula.* PURPLE GRACKLE. Common summer resident.

514. *Coccothraustes Vespertina.* EVENING GROSBEAK. Very rare winter visitor. One was killed in Agawam, March 21, 1890; another in Brimfield the same year.

515. *Pinicola Enucleator.* PINE GROSBEAK. Irregular winter visitor.

517. *Carpodacus Purpureus.* PURPLE FINCH. Common summer resident. Sometimes seen in mild winters.

521. *Loxia Curvirostra Minor.* AMERICAN CROSSBILL. Irregular winter visitor.

522. *Loxia Leucoptera.* WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL. Irregular winter visitor.

528. *Acanthis Linaria.* REDPOLL. Regular winter visitor.

529. *Spinus Tristis.* AMERICAN GOLDFINCH. Common resident.

533. *Spinus Pinus.* PINE SISKIN; PINE LINNET. Irregular winter visitor.

534. *Plectrophenax Nivalis.* SNOWFLAKE; SNOW BUNTING. Regular winter visitor.

540. *Poocaetes Gramineus.* VESPER SPARROW. Summer resident; abundant on hills and dry plains.

542a. *Ammodramus Sandwichensis Savanna.* SAVANNA SPARROW. Rare summer resident.

546. *Ammodramus Savannarum Passerinus.* GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. Common summer resident.

554. *Zonotrichia Leucophrys.* WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. Rare migrant in spring and fall.

558. *Zonotrichia Albicollis.* WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. Regular and abundant migrant in spring and fall; a few may breed among the mountains of this region.

559. *Spizella Monticola.* TREE SPARROW. Regular winter visitor.

560. *Spizella Socialis.* CHIPPING SPARROW. Common summer resident.

563. *Spizella Pusilla.* FIELD SPARROW. Common summer resident.

567. *Junco Hyemalis.* SLATE-COLORED JUNCO; SNOW-BIRD. Abundant as a migrant in spring and fall. It is probable that a few may breed on the mountains of this region.

581. *Melospiza Fasciata.* SONG SPARROW. Regular summer resident; abundant near water-courses and on moist ground.

584. *Melospiza Georgiana.* SWAMP SPARROW. Regular summer resident, found in swamps.

585. *Passerella Iliaca.* FOX SPARROW. Regular spring and fall migrant.

587. *Pipilo Erythrophthalmus.* TOWHEE; CHEWINK. Regular summer resident.

593. *Cardinalis Cardinalis.* CARDINAL. Very rare visitor.

595. *Habia Ludoviciana.* ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. Regular, but not numerous, summer resident.

598. *Passerina Cyanea.* INDIGO BUNTING. Common summer resident.

608. *Piranga Erythromelas.* SCARLET TANAGER. Common summer resident.

611. *Progne Subis.* PURPLE MARTIN. Irregular summer resident, less numerous than formerly.

612. *Petrochelidon Lunifrons.* CLIFF SWALLOW; EAVE SWALLOW. Common but irregularly distributed summer resident.

613. *Chelidon Erythrogaster.* BARN SWALLOW. Abundant summer resident.

614. *Tachycineta Bicolor.* TREE SWALLOW; WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW. Regular summer resident.

616. *Clivicola Ripara.* BANK SWALLOW. Common summer resident, irregularly distributed.

619. *Ampelis Cedrorum.* CEDAR WAX-WING; CEDAR BIRD; CHERRY BIRD. Common resident; more abundant in summer.

621. *Lanius Borealis.* NORTHERN SHRIKE. Regular winter visitor, but not abundant.

624. *Vireo Olivaceus.* RED-EYED VIREO. Abundant summer resident, very generally distributed.

627. *Vireo Gilvus.* WARBLING VIREO. Common summer resident.

628. *Vireo Flavifrons.* YELLOW-THROATED VIREO. Summer resident, not abundant.

629. *Vireo Solitarius.* BLUE-HEADED VIREO. Rather rare summer resident.

636. *Mniotilta Varia.* BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER. Regular summer resident.

637. *Protonotaria Citrea.* PROTHONOTARY WARBLER. Very rare; one was captured at Northampton by Mr. Damon.

639. *Helmitherus Vermivorus.* WORM-EATING WARBLER. Rare summer resident.

645. *Helminthophila Ruficapilla.* NASHVILLE WARBLER. Summer resident, but more numerous in spring and fall.

646. *Helminthophila Celata.* ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER. Very rare; Mr. Allen reported one found at Springfield, May 15, 1863.

647. *Helminthophila Peregrina.* TENNESSEE WARBLER. Regular, but not abundant migrant.

648. *Compsothlypis Americana.* PARULA WARBLER; BLUE YELLOW-BACKED WARBLER. Common summer resident.

650. *Dendroica Tigrina.* CAPE MAY WARBLER. Rare migrant; reported at Springfield by Mr. Allen, and at Amherst by Mr. Stearns.

652. *Dendroica Æstiva.* YELLOW WARBLER. Common summer resident.

654. *Dendroica Cœrulescens.* BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER. Common migrant; a few remain to breed in this region.

655. *Dendroica Coronata.* MYRTLE WARBLER; YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER. Migrant; numerous both spring and fall.

657. *Dendroica Maculosa.* MAGNOLIA WARBLER; BLACK AND YELLOW WARBLER. Regular migrant.

659. *Dendroica Pensylvanica.* CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. Common summer resident.

660. *Dendroica Castanea.* BAY-BREASTED WARBLER. Common spring and fall migrant.

661. *Dendroica Striata.* BLACK-POLL WARBLER. Regular migrant.

662. *Dendroica Blackburniæ.* BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER. Regular, but not numerous, summer resident.

667. *Dendroica Virens.* BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. Common summer resident.

671. *Dendroica Vigorsii.* PINE WARBLER. Common summer resident.

673. *Dendroica Discolor.* PRAIRIE WARBLER. Rather rare summer resident.

674. *Seiurus Aurocapillus.* OVEN BIRD. Common summer resident.

675. *Seiurus Noveboracensis.* WATER THRUSH. Regular as a migrant, and a few remain to breed.

678. *Geothlypis Agilis.* CONNECTICUT WARBLER. Irregular migrant.

679. *Geothlypis Philadelphia.* MOURNING WARBLER. Rather rare migrant.

681. *Geothlypis Trichas.* MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT. Common summer resident.

683. *Icteria Virens.* YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. Rare summer resident; captured at Northampton by Mr. Damon.

685. *Sylvania Pusilla.* WILSON'S WARBLER. Rather rare migrant.

686. *Sylvania Canadensis.* CANADIAN WARBLER. Regular summer resident; not abundant.

687. *Setophaga Ruticilla.* AMERICAN REDSTART. Common summer resident.

703. *Mimus Polyglottos.* MOCKINGBIRD. Rare summer visitor; bred near Springfield in 1878; a pair visited West Springfield in 1888, 1889 and 1890, and bred there. One was seen there again in April, 1891.

704. *Galeoscoptes Carolinensis.* CATBIRD. Common summer resident.

705. *Harporhynchus Rufus.* BROWN THRASHER. Common summer resident.

721. *Troglodytes Aëdon.* HOUSE WREN. Rather rare summer resident; formerly more plentiful.

722. *Troglodytes Hiemalis.* WINTER WREN. Regular migrant.

724. *Cistothorus Stellaris.* SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN. Rather rare summer resident of the swamps or marshes of the southern portion of this region.

725. *Cistothorus Palustris.* LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN. Summer resident; not uncommon in the marshes of the southern part of Hampden county.

726. *Certhia Familiaris Americana.* BROWN CREEPER. Not uncommon resident.

727. *Sitta Carolinensis.* WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Common resident.

728. *Sitta Canadensis.* RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Not uncommon as a migrant or winter visitor; has been reported as breeding at Ware.

735. *Parus Atricapillus.* CHICKADEE. Common resident.

748. *Regulus Satrapa.* GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. Regular fall and spring migrant, and occasionally seen in winter.

749. *Regulus Calendula.* RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET. Regular migrant.

755. *Turdus Mustelinus.* WOOD THRUSH. Common summer resident.

756. *Turdus Fuscescens.* WILSON'S THRUSH. Common summer resident.

757. *Turdus Aliciæ.* GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH. Migrant; rarely seen.

758A. *Turdus Ustulatus Swainsonii.* OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH. Regular migrant; but a few may breed on the mountains.

759B. *Turdus Aonalaschkæ Pallasii.* HERMIT THRUSH. Common fall and spring migrant.

761. *Merula Migratoria.* AMERICAN ROBIN. Abundant summer resident and sometimes remains through the winter.

766. *Sialia Sialis.* BLUEBIRD. Common summer resident.

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The birds of the Connecticut valley in M